

# The Sun

AND NEW YORK PRESS.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 1918.

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TELEPHONE, BEEKMAN 2200.

More Steam for Liberty Bonds.

The public is now pushing the Liberty Loan with more steam, but not nearly enough yet. The district of New York must send its answer to the German drive with more than its minimum quota of \$900,000,000. The whole country must send its answer with more than its minimum of \$8,000,000,000. New York will do none too much if it subscribes a billion and a half. The whole country will do none too much if it subscribes five billions.

And that isn't all! This must be a loan of the American people. The great mass of the people must be behind President's army, and the way for them to begin to be behind President's army is to be behind this Liberty Loan. Ten million subscribers will not begin to be the number that ought to get behind the Liberty Loan and President. Twenty million subscribers will not be as many as ought to be in line.

In these last days of the Liberty Loan, make it your business, everybody, to help an oversubscription of the loan by upward of \$2,000,000,000, with a roll of subscribers many millions more than ten millions of Americans!

The Delegates From France.

Two score and ten Americans and a hundred Frenchmen, veterans of the fighting on the frontier of civilization, have come to this country as delegates from the army that is defending us against autocracy and barbarism. They are brothers in a common cause, blood brothers from the field of honor, and their reception must be worthy of their deserts.

They bring to us word that their comrades are doing the heroic duty that falls to them uncomplainingly, confidently and skilfully, and that they look to us for unremitting support and unfailing loyalty. They do not ask us to do as much as they are doing, or to prepare ourselves for the sacrifices they are ready to make. They recognize the limitations of our situation, and the bounds that are set on our possible efforts. But they call on us to do all that we can within those limitations and bounds to hold up the hands of men who are doing more, to support them vigorously in their task and to demean ourselves like men.

These men are entitled to the honors that have already been bestowed on them. They have earned the praise, the cheers, the tears of the throngs gathered to watch them as they move through the streets. No manifestation of approval that can be devised is too splendid for them; but they deserve more practical proof of the affection in which they are held than mere words can convey. They should take back with them to France, the country that is to-day the motherland of every freeman, the assurance that the civilians of this nation, whatever call may be made on them, will not be less diligent or less devoted in their labors for justice and honor than they themselves are; and no higher task can be set for us than the emulation of these heroes of our common cause.

Labor's Message to the World.

At any time since the United States entered the war the message of American solidarity and determination carried to the British people by the delegation of labor leaders from this country now in London would have been a valuable stimulant to British opinion. Delivered at the moment when the most tremendous battle of a conflict of tremendous battles is in progress, it acquires a double significance and a doubled value.

The pledge uttered by President Wilson of the Pattern Makers' League of North America is worth reading twice. He said:

"The American labor movement, in whose behalf my colleagues and myself have been authorized to speak, declare most emphatically that they will not agree to a peace conference with the enemies of civilization, irrespective of what cloak they wear, until Prussian militarism has withdrawn within its own boundaries, and then not until the Germans have, through proper representatives, proved to our satisfaction that they recognize the right of peoples and

civilized nations to determine for themselves what shall be their standard."

Such words spoken when all was going well with the nations fighting Germany would have fulfilled a useful purpose. They would have recorded the firm belief of the labor movement in this country in the necessity for the sacrifices its members, in common with all other citizens, must make to attain victory. But under the circumstances that now exist, with London discussing seriously the possibility of German occupation of the Channel ports, with the British armies admittedly hard pressed, and the immediate military outlook more depressing than it has been since the late summer of 1914, this firm declaration of unalterable design takes on a special and inspiring significance.

If anywhere there has existed a suspicion that the American people entered the war lightly, misapprehending the demands its prosecution would make on them, or in the belief that it would end quickly with triumph for the cause they espoused; if in any quarter the thought has been harbored that reverses on the field would sap their determination or cause them to regret their act; if the sincerity and earnestness of their intention to fight to the final vindication of democracy in the struggle with autocracy has anywhere been questioned, words like those of Mr. Wilson, coming in the conditions that now exist, must dispel the illusions, and their effect should be felt not only in England and America, but also in Germany, where an all powerful Government has cunningly and consistently sought to mislead the minds of the people with regard to the attitude of this nation.

Our War Finance Directors.

The President's selections of men for the biggest jobs in the country in the greatest crisis of history are not all, it seems, to be Schwabs and Ryans. This is painfully evident in his choice for directors of the all important War Finance Corporation, of WILLIAM P. G. HARDING of Alabama, ALLEN B. FORBES of New York, EUGENE MEYER, Jr., of New York, and ANSON W. McLEAN of North Carolina.

Mr. FORBES, with his experience and capacity, ought to be fully up to the requirements of this gigantic national undertaking. But Mr. MEYER, whatever his merits, cannot be regarded by the financial and industrial world as specially fitted by his previous activities in a brokerage office for the vast responsibilities to be entrusted to this Board of Directors. Mr. HARDING in some respects is not unsuitable, yet to pick for half the membership of the board two gentlemen of such obscure communities is little short of grotesque. Anybody may possess, in undeveloped form, the genius equal to any financial works and problems, but until that fact has been proved there could be no justification, at such a time as this, for taking the gamble on an unknown quantity.

Whatever the possibilities of untrained men, this is not the hour for experimental laboratory work, so to speak, in performing the prodigious labors of the nation in the war which is shaking the earth.

Is It Worth the Price to Germany?

The price which Germany is paying for her present advance, won yard by yard over soil soaked with the blood of her own soldiers, may be judged by the British casualty reports. These reports show that in the last three weeks they have footed up 38,896 officers and men. In the last four weeks they have exceeded 43,000.

What price in wrecked bodies and lost lives has Germany had to pay for the ground she has won, with more than 40,000 casualties on the British side, plus the French losses? At this moment there is no telling what the French toll is. We know that for the greater part of this whole spring drive the pounding has been hardest along the British lines. We know that the desperate struggles for positions in the great majority of cases have been between the British and the German forces. We know that the slaughter of the Germans has been widest day after day opposite the British lines, with their stubborn, incessant, merciless rain of shot and shell.

We do not know the losses of the French in the same period because their War Office does not publish them. But if we assume that week for week in that period the French have lost half as many as the British have lost in killed and wounded, and if we further assume the correctness of the German claim of many prisoners taken, and if we again assume that the average of casualties has been as bad for six weeks as it has been for four, this would account for not much more than 150,000 losses by the British and the French during the present drive.

Throwing their armies into these attacks by the hundreds of thousands, the Germans have had not merely whole regiments but whole divisions torn to pieces to the extent of 30, 40 and even 50 per cent. German units sent into action one week have been knocked to pieces, drawn back, patched up and sent in again the next week or the week after that, to undergo another butchery approaching annihilation. The slaughter has been so continuous and so colossal for more than a month that few estimates of the German losses have been lower than 400,000, and some of them have run as high as 600,000.

It is in this way that the mobile defense of the Allies, which strives not so much to hold ground at any cost to themselves, but to kill Germans storming almost impregnable positions,

whatever their loss in gaining them, does its grim part of executioner like clockwork. And it is in this way that the mobile defense appears to be taking for every life of its own that it gives up two lives of the enemy here, three there, four somewhere else, with perhaps an average on the whole of two and a half to one against the enemy.

Can the Germans, with all they have staked on this desperate stroke, continue to pay that price? It is true that their death toll has piled up for nearly four years to a ghastly total, yet they have not flinched. By their own admissions nearly three-quarters of a million of their men are missing as prisoners since the war began. Their killed in action or dead from wounds have topped more than three million, with many more maimed and crippled. But with their own blood running like water on such dearly bought battlefields, can they go on? Can they, if this prodigious sacrifice of their own human fighting machines brings exhaustion so far as concerns further offensives—can they then, thrown on the defensive, resist the Allies as the Allies have resisted them?

Obviously, this is the hope and it is the plan of the Allies—to kill more Germans, many times more, than they themselves lose; to let the superb German armies cripple themselves, then to strike back against the diminished enemy with all the power they have reserved to match fresh strength against overtaxed weakness.

If this is in the future, in the making as well as in the planning, then all is well in Northern France.

Lower Fares for Fighters.

A good case seems to be made out by "W. E. B.," whose letter appears elsewhere on this page.

The Government is not doing the generous thing, or even the just thing, by its soldiers and sailors in the matter of railroad fares. It is undoubtedly true, as the correspondent says, that some uniformed men on leave are prevented from going to their homes, perhaps less than a hundred miles distant, by the cost of railroad tickets.

We do not advocate the free and unlimited transportation of uniformed men, but rather a system under which men on furlough may be enabled, at reduced rates, to visit their relatives. Trip permits for low fares could be issued by regimental or company commanders at their discretion.

It is a matter which the boss of the army, Mr. BAKER, and the boss of the railroads, Mr. McADAMS, could settle satisfactorily in two minutes.

Another Worm Turns.

Two of Mayor Hylan's Commissioners have resigned under circumstances not at all reassuring to the public, and in the letters of both are found peculiar points of similarity. On January 22 Police Commissioner BUCHER, giving Mr. Hylan his reasons for leaving the city's service, wrote as follows:

"I was persuaded to accept the appointment upon your positive assurance that I would be absolutely unfettered and would be allowed to select my own deputies and organization in my own way. . . . You have notified me not to fill even the most unimportant exempt positions, which would include clerks and stenographers, without first consulting you."

In sending his resignation to the Mayor yesterday Health Commissioner AMSTER wrote:

"Contrary to your promise to me, you have continuously interfered by petty direction and arbitrary inaction in the conduct of the Department of Health. Immediately after I had taken my own oath of office you directed the appointment of your family physician as Secretary of the Department. On no less than two occasions I reported to you my opinion that he was unsuited to perform the duties of his office and that I desired your permission to dispense with his services. This you refused to give."

The Mayor appears to have taken the unfortunate position that as he appoints the Commissioners he must also direct them in detail. This is, as every one familiar with the government of New York knows, an impossible proposition, and particularly when the Mayor's guidance is largely in the matter of patronage. The administration is not four months old, yet two important commissions have been thrown up because the holders of them would not sacrifice their self-respect.

The Mayor's admirers may ask: Has his Honor nothing to say about the conduct of the departments? Indeed he has. It is his duty to see that they are well administered in the main, and to that end he should throw out unfit Commissioners and appoint good ones in their places. It is also his duty, when the Commissioners are doing well, not to embarrass them with petty political demands. Mr. BUCHER was doing well, but the Mayor drove him out of Police Headquarters by trying to smash the discipline of the department in insisting upon the appointment of subordinates of uncertain fitness and in going over Mr. BUCHER's head.

There is no evidence that Commissioner AMSTER was not doing his best to keep the Health Department in something like the good condition it enjoyed under the Mitchell administration. There is evidence, too well known and too voluminous to need repetition here, that the Mayor has decided to throw a wooden shoe into the machinery of the Health Department; has adopted a policy which Dr. AMSTER declares might hazard the health of the community.

Dr. AMSTER's resignation may have good effect in two ways. It may direct more keenly the public's atten-

tion toward the war which Mr. Hylan is making against important functions of the Health Department. It may suggest to the Mayor himself that a Commissioner without self-respect is not worth his salt, and that if he wishes to keep capable men in the city's service he must treat them as if they were real Commissioners and not mere patronage clerks.

Registering Our Man Power.

Whatever recommendations for the increase of the army the War Department may make to Congress next week before the House Committee on Military Affairs, the wisdom is apparent of registering at once the man power of the nation up to the age at which it is assumed capacity for service with the colors or behind the lines ceases. The increments for the army may be drawn from any class designated by the authorities; registration is no older than 30 may prove to be an unnecessary precaution, but it cannot prove to be unwise.

The country knows now something of what failure to prepare itself adequately for defense costs. The account cannot be closed yet, but the folly of procrastination has been completely demonstrated. Moreover, the probability that the war will be of long duration is now generally recognized. Even the most careless citizens do not pretend they hope for a quick decision. Under these circumstances, the early registration and classification of all citizens who may be needed to defend the country will commend themselves to popular opinion as acts of the highest statesmanship.

If the registration is accomplished now, the men liable to it can be subjected to examination through the medium of an intelligently conceived and carefully worked out questionnaire, and their answers can be studied by the authorities without haste. The Government can in this way acquire the exact knowledge of the population it requires for its guidance in future war activities. The inevitable errors of an emergency rush can be avoided.

The advantages accruing to citizens are not less evident. Instead of wondering whether he may be called on for service, and if so, what that service will be, every individual whose name is on the list will know his exact status and can decide with reasonable certainty when he is likely to be drafted. Possessed of this knowledge, he can order his personal affairs to suit his situation, and provide in confidence for the future.

The registration of the adult able-bodied male population should be ordered at once. It is an essential of real preparedness that must not be neglected.

Pollagra is not communicable and is caused by an unbalanced diet, consisting mainly of cereals, starches and fats, with but little of the animal flesh foods or milk. From the Bulletin of the Public Health Service.

Another argument in favor of the conservation of wheat.

Hotel and restaurant waiters in Boston are demanding higher pay because beer has been raised from five to ten cents a glass. With prohibition in effect this cause of unrest would be eliminated. Perhaps it is this which induced the Massachusetts General Court to vote for a bone dry nation.

China is ready to send a million soldiers to the front in France whenever the supreme command calls for them. Meanwhile the Chinese who went to France to labor behind the lines have proved their fighting capacity in an emergency. The Orient knows what freedom is and is ready to defend it.

New York breaks record for welcomes with ovation to men from trenches, here to boost Liberty Loan.—Newspaper headline.

They were ordered from one essential job to another equally essential.

STATESMANSHIP.

Regretful Reflections on Its Course in Two Countries.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Do statesmen lead ahead and then tell us what they see or hope or fear, or do they simply try to voice the thoughts of the people and to keep themselves in office and their party in power?

For forty years and in plain view Germany was preparing to attack civilization, but what persons in authority on either side of the Atlantic told the English speaking peoples to prepare for the day of the attack were not only excellent, but practically every farm that is fenced with woven wire a small flock could be kept with a large per cent of profit. Small flocks remain healthy and live largely upon herbage rejected by other stock. Small flocks are not crowded with other stock and are not detriment to them, as many farmers suppose. The reputation that other countries have made as sheep producers has been due to their small flocks—ten to twenty on almost every farm, while flocks in the cathedral close and on the hills of France and England are not only a frequent and pleasing sight, but very seldom are there as many as forty in these flocks. In the United States conditions are quite different. Professor Craig thus describes them:

"The American farmer's inclination to raise and keep large flocks has been greatly to his disadvantage. At times they have assembled over each other to buy sheep, often getting more than they were offered to keep well, and again as frequently trying to dispose of all. Another notion that has militated against the stability of the sheep industry is that it will not do to keep a strain of sheep on a farm more than a year."

Other mistakes of the farmer are to regard sheep as wool-producing animals to the neglect of their value as mutton, and to neglect pasture and grass for them.

"These mistakes of our farmers have retarded the sheep and wool industry of this country. In Scotland and France a book has lately been published in France entitled 'Traité des bêtes à laine,' in which the sheep as a source of wool is specially studied. This happens to be the commercial side of the problem, which must appeal to the American farmer, for the wool industry is not only one of the most important of our country, but it appears that small flocks and grazing are not studied here as they should be."

A chapter is devoted to the shepherd dog. The French author certainly strikes a blow at the sheep and wool industry that a well trained dog is the best protection against other dogs and against wild animals. It seems that it is not difficult to train dogs so that they not only protect sheep but guide these animals in their chief instinct, which is to wander about in their grounds. It certainly seems desirable common sense to use the intelligence of the dog as is done in the great sheep farming countries.

PAUL BARTHOLOMEW, M. D.

Boston, Mass., April 29.

WHAT DAVIS WORE.

Other Versions of the Story About the Use of His Wife's Garments.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The account of the capture of Jefferson Davis published in THE SUN of April 24 from the Tifton Gazette of April 20 is most instructing to one who remembers the excitement caused by that capture at the time when it occurred.

The account of the occurrence given by the Gazette on the authority of the Hon. Thomas B. Young is doubtless correct in the main and is entitled to the respect of all students of history.

It is, however, unfortunate that Mr. Young should have sought to discredit the statement that Mr. Davis was wearing some of his wife's clothing when he fell into the hands of his captors. It is true that his phrase is cautious, but his inference is plain when he says that there is, "as every one knows now, absolutely no truth in the statement that he (Mr. Davis) was wearing his wife's skirt."

So far as I know, no authoritative statement has ever made that he was wearing a woman's skirt, but it is beyond question that he had some garment on that belonged to his wife, and that he put it on hastily with some thought of its serving as a disguise. Whether it was a skirt or not does not seem to be a matter.

The president of Randolph-Macon College, for one, accepts this statement as true, for in his recently published "Life of Jefferson Davis" he admits it specifically and declares that the fact was humiliating, but he asks what man could have refused his wife's garments in such a moment.

Perhaps, however, the best witness to the fact is Mr. Davis himself. In his own book he gives his own account of the capture and says that in the dim twilight he took up one of his wife's garments and put it on.

Since so great a man as Mr. Davis was not ashamed of so natural an attempt to disguise himself at a moment of peril, it seems supererogatory to try to gloss over the fact at this late date.

Did not Abraham Lincoln pass through Baltimore wearing a Scotch plaid garment of some sort in the hope of escaping notice? Does any one think any the less of him for that?

DAVID A. CURTIS.

New York, April 27.

FAILURES WITH SHEEP.

Too Large Flocks, Rather Than Dogs, May Be to Blame.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The correspondence and articles which have appeared in your issue of April 24 in relation to sheep and sheep farming seem to call for notice in several particulars.

As to the evidence against the dog, most people assume that sheep farming would be more profitable if the dogs were exterminated. This argument is too much value is placed upon a single factor. Are there not other causes that account for the decline of sheep farming and the losses of these valuable animals? There are animals other than dogs which are known to kill sheep. There are foxes, wolves, coyotes, and other birds. Little incunancy has been exerted to devise means of destroying them. It would seem that the extermination of the dog catchers of these animals, that to turn all their attention to dogs. If the evidence as to the dog is further examined it will be found that most of it will not bear close examination. It is not scientific as it is based for the most part on hearsay. There is no instance of a sheep being killed by a dog in this country. This fact is clearly shown in a pamphlet on the sheep killing dog, published by the Bureau of Animal Industry. The writer, after admitting that the percentage of losses from this cause is very small, says: "The fact does not go to say that the sheep were not torn or bitten; they were found dead, and a picture even shows a flock of dead sheep behind a wire fence. Such evidence is wholly unscientific. A scientific observer would require clear evidence and would not be likely to believe the dog or dog could get through the wire fences and out again."

Professor Craig of the University of Wisconsin in his book on sheep farming in North America does not say a word about dogs, but he has a great deal to say about the farmer's wrong conditions for a profitable sheep industry are not excellent. Upon practically every farm that is fenced with woven wire a small flock could be kept with a large per cent of profit. Small flocks remain healthy and live largely upon herbage rejected by other stock. Small flocks are not crowded with other stock and are not detriment to them, as many farmers suppose. The reputation that other countries have made as sheep producers has been due to their small flocks—ten to twenty on almost every farm, while flocks in the cathedral close and on the hills of France and England are not only a frequent and pleasing sight, but very seldom are there as many as forty in these flocks. In the United States conditions are quite different. Professor Craig thus describes them:

"The American farmer's inclination to raise and keep large flocks has been greatly to his disadvantage. At times they have assembled over each other to buy sheep, often getting more than they were offered to keep well, and again as frequently trying to dispose of all. Another notion that has militated against the stability of the sheep industry is that it will not do to keep a strain of sheep on a farm more than a year."

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PAUL BARTHOLOMEW, M. D.

Boston, Mass., April 29.

THE FOREIGN LANGUAGE PRESS.

Might It Be Used to Teach Americanism to Unassimilated Citizens?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The sentiment against the publication of newspapers in this country in any language but English is highly commendable, but is it not possible to adopt a better plan than the prevention of their publication and sale?

For instance, if the United States Government would commandeer and take over the control of such newspapers and put their management in the hands of the National Committee on Patriotic Education they could be made a very powerful influence for good. It should be remembered that very many of the readers of these papers cannot read English and that they can be reached only through the language they understand.

JUDSON G. WALL.

New York, April 29.

IN COOPER'S COUNTRY.

The Old Stock Responds to the Cry of Liberty Endangered.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: This secluded valley was the gift to ancestors for distinguished service and suffering in the war of the Revolution, an incident of a republic not wholly ungrateful. They came up to take possession of the land, the eastern frontiers of the State, and the natural waterways, and "carries," and our progenitors are of these, and those who came with them and after for a few years. Then the tide of settlement pushed on through the great natural valleys, and passed between the steep hills, and the old stock here, here, then, you should find the American people, the faith of the fathers and the ark of the covenant preserved.

Perhaps it was ingrained in us that, having rebelled from Europe and its affairs, and having headed the insurrection of the American people, we should watch the world struggle on in various phases, as movie scenes on the stage, not on our level.

Then, too, the embattled farms of Lexington is out of date, is also here. Every man here has a rifle, a shotgun, a gun and a rifle and could shoot with them, and shoot straight. To-day the possession alone of the first is a felony, and of the others would have been but for the wisdom of our forebears, who embedded in the Constitution the right of citizens to bear arms, and to have a license for yourself, as well as your dog, and the old gun won't and the young don't. Perhaps we were growing flabby.

War is a great eye opener. We were told we must measure up to the regulations, though we used to be a little lax. Right away the National Association will show that we can, and further that the farmers performed better service by remaining producers.

The patriot here who cannot go to the front by reason of age, physique or occupation, in modern instance, being wise, saws wood, and does the best he can at home.

The Red Cross workers meet twice a week and knit everywhere. For it we have had a bazaar, a ball and a masquerade. We have sent an ambulance from here "over there." The Otsego Journal has at its head, and has been for some time, a list of names of veterans now as a result of the civil war. Now it carries, too, the names of those who take bonds for liberty. We were just under our quota last time. This time we are going way "over the top."

A chief of the Manhattan police, who has a summer place here, told the man's club in the Sunday school room of the Presbyterian church who we were at war. He was asked to repeat it at Springfield, at the head of Otsego Lake, which gave more per capita to the last Liberty Loan, as Cooperstown had.

To the chief of the Otsego village in the United States. Two young Fenimore Cooper were commissioned as Lieutenants. James Fenimore Cooper, Jr., was promoted Captain, and died at Camp Dix, Wrightstown, in the service of his country, as did John M. Bowers from overwork on the front. Both of them were public observers and funeral in Cooperstown.

And later we had our Manhattan friend address a general meeting one Sunday afternoon in the town hall.

As I sat there I felt that the dome, the good Colonel had said, was a devoted to the service of the town, those of religious orders. As I listened to the tale of German barbarism I seemed to see beside our own Otsego the tall figure of Natty Bumppo sliding down from his cave on the hillside and heard in his droning speech, "I guess I'll go out after the armaments."

And as I followed Le Long Carbine in his canoe I heard the military command "Attention! As you were!" and saw in Glimmer Glass that Fenimore Cooper of Otsego has made famous, the picture of America, as she is, as she was, and as she should be, America that can say "Garry on!"

LE CARR AUILL.

BUTTERNUTS, April 27.

FIGHTERS' RAILROAD FARE.

Should Soldiers and Sailors Pay More Than the Clergy?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The time was 9:15 P. M. Thursday, April 18, 1918; the place was the Jersey Central Railroad ticket office at the foot of Liberty street, New York.

An American citizen, 24 years old, who had enlisted in the naval service of the United States, and who had been "over there" several times and was now over here with shore liberty, was on his way to visit his home and family. He bought a round trip ticket to South Amboy, N. J., and paid the full fare, \$14.00. He was dressed in his blues and on his head was a large, round hat, and on the band "U. S. 2. Leighton."

The next applicant asked for a ticket to the same place. He was dressed in the attire of a clergyman. The agent, seeing his garb, tersely asked "Clerical?" "Yes," was the reply, and 35 cents was paid for his passage. A second applicant asked for a ticket to the same place, but he was only half the price paid by one of Uncle Sam's boys.

This same sailor has travelled on the railroads of England, and even England gives reduced rates to United States soldiers and sailors. Why should we not do the same for our own boys?

Surely most of our clergy are compensated beyond \$35 a month and maintenance. Particularly at the present time should the United States, while operating the railroads, give to her sons in blue and khaki the lowest passage rate.

Some of our boys are prevented by the expense from seeing their dear ones often.

W. E. B.

SOUTH AMBOY, N. J., April 27.</